

HOUSE BILL 1487

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2 and Title 3, relative to members of congress.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-16-102, is amended by deleting the word "not" from the second sentence of such section.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, is amended by adding Sections 3 through 6 of this act as a new chapter.

SECTION 3.

(a) There is created a joint legislative committee on congressional communications, referred to in this chapter as the committee, which shall constitute a special committee of the general assembly.

(b) The committee shall be composed of eight (8) members. The speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall be members and shall serve as co-chairs of the committee. The speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall each appoint two (2) members of the majority party and one (1) member of the minority party from the respective houses.

(c) Members of the committee shall serve until their successors are appointed in accordance with this section so long as such members remain members of the general assembly. Any member of the committee who ceases to be a member of the general assembly shall cease to be a member of the committee on the same date such member's membership in the general assembly ceases, as provided in the Constitution of Tennessee.

SECTION 4.

(a) The committee shall meet within ten (10) legislative days of the second Tuesday in January of each year for the purpose of making recommendations on policies and positions to be followed by the members of the state's congressional delegation who serve in the United States house of representatives. Recommendations shall be approved by a majority of the committee and shall be presented to the full general assembly in the form of a joint resolution upon approval.

(b) As soon as is practicable following the adoption of a joint resolution that embraces some or all of the committee's recommendations, but prior to the adjournment of the regular session of the general assembly in odd-numbered years or prior to the adjournment sine die of the general assembly in even-numbered years, the committee shall invite all members of the general assembly and all of the members of the state's congressional delegation who serve in the United States house of representatives to appear before the committee for a public reading of the joint resolution that is approved pursuant to subsection (a) and presentation of the joint resolution to each member of the congressional delegation. The public reading and presentation required by this subsection (b) may be conducted at a joint meeting of the general assembly that occurs on a day that the general assembly is in session or at a meeting of the committee that occurs on a day that the general assembly is in session.

(c) Additional meetings may be called by the co-chairs at their pleasure or by a majority of the members of the committee; provided, that all meetings must be held on days that the general assembly is in session. Members of the committee from the senate only or the house of representatives only may meet at the call of the appropriate speaker to consider matters concerning only the senate or the house of representatives, respectively.

SECTION 5. The committee shall be authorized to initiate the redistricting process for congressional districts between apportionments as provided by § 2-16-102.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.